

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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2ND CORRECTED COPY (PARA 2, LINE 8 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: PORG, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS REFORM

1. POSTS MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE STATUS OF THE LONGSTAN-
DING PROJECT TO REFORM THE OAS. REFORM EFFORTS SINCE
1973 WERE LED BY PERU WITH PARTICULAR SUPPORT FROM ECUADOR
AND PANAMA, AND GENERAL SUPPORT FROM MOST OTHER LATIN AND
CARIBBEAN MEMBERS. IN THE PAST YEAR, AS THE DRAWN OUT
PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING TEXTS WAS CONCLUDED, MUCH OF THE
STEAM BEHIND REFORM SEEMS TO HAVE COOLED. WE CONTINUE
TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH THE VARIOUS TEXTS
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FINALLY APPROVED AS DRAFTS BY MAJORITY VOTE, AND ARE
ATTEMPTING TO EMPHASIZE OUR PROPOSALS TO RESTRUCTURE THE
ORGANIZATION OVER THE LATIN PREFERENCE FOR WRITING NEW
LEGAL INSTRUMENTS.

2. THE PERMANENT COUNCIL APPROVED THREE DRAFT TEXTS THAT
ARE NOW OFFICIALLY BEFORE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FOR THZIR

CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO THE CONVOCAION OF A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OAS REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE: A) PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO THE OAS CHARTER, WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY REVISE THE PRESENT CHARTER BUT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION. WE

OPPOSED THE NEW DRAFT PREAMBLE AS A STEP BACKWARDS FROM THE EXISTING PREAMBLE AND OPPOSED OR ABSTAINED ON SEVERAL ARTICLES CONCERNING ECONOMIC MATTERS.

B) DRAFT CONVENTION ON COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT. WE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THIS CONVENTION AS A WHOLE BUT RESERVED ON THREE ARTICLES THAT INCORPORATE ELEMENTS OF THE CALVO DOCTRINE. WE ALSO ENTERED A RESERVATION ON ITS JURIDICAL NATURE; WE THINK IT SHOULD BE A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES RATHER THAN OBLIGATIONS.

C) DRAFT CONVENTION ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY. WE OPPOSED THIS CONVENTION BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF PUTTING THE U.S. OR ANY OTHER ACCUSED COUNTRY IN THE DOCK TO BE JUDGED FOR ECONOMIC AGGRESSION BY THE OTHERS. (OUR OPPOSITION IS NOT BASED, AS SOME HAVE MISTAKENLY CONCLUDED, ON THE INCLUSION OF THE WORD "COLLECTIVE" IN COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY.)

3. AT THE OASGA IN SANTIAGO IN 1976 THE U.S. TABLED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE THE OAS. AT GRENADA LAST MONTH SECRETARY VANCE ADDRESSED THE ISSUE AGAIN. ESSENTIALLY WE PROPOSE TO MERGE THE CURRENT THREE COUNCILS INTO ONE (A YEAR AGO WE SAID ALL THREE SHOULD BE ABOLISHED), ENCOURAGE MORE AD HOC MEETINGS OF EXPERTS ON VARIOUS TOPICS, AND REDUCE OVER TIME THE U.S. SHARE OF THE ASSIGNED BUDGET (BUT NOT OF THE SO-CALLED VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS) FROM 66 TO 49. WE WILL PRESENT A DETAILED FOLLOW-UP TO THESE BROAD PROPOSALS IN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AFTER IT RECONVENES IN SEPTEMBER. OUR 1976 PROPOSAL IS AMONG THE DOCUMENTS NOW BEFORE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO A SPECIAL GA. WE EXPECT OUR DETAILED FOLLOW-UP TO HAVE THE SAME STATUS.

4. THE PERMANENT COUNCIL HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CONVENE A MEETING OF "SPECIALLY DESIGNATED HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES TO REVIEW AND SEEK TO RECONCILE DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW AND TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS" PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL GA. WE WILL PROPOSE THE CONVOCAION OF SUCH A PREPARATORY MEETING TO BE ATTENDED BY PROMINENT CITIZENS OF THE AMERICAS. WE HOPE THEY WILL FOCUS ON THE GOALS OF THE OAS AND HOW BEST TO STRUCTURE THE ORGANIZATION TO ACHIEVE THEM.

THROUGH SUCH A MEETING, WE COULD BYPASS THE OAS AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON, WHO OFTEN TAKE LEGALISTIC AND PAROCHIAL POSITIONS.

5. THE SPECIAL GA ON RESTRUCTURING WILL BE HELD IN LIMA BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF A DATE YET. WE MAY PROPOSE DATES FOR THE SPECIAL GA AND ITS PREPARATORY MEETING WHEN WE ELABORATE OUR POSITION THIS FALL.

THE OTHER SPECIAL GA THAT WAS AUTHORIZED A YEAR AGO, ON COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (I.E., ECONOMICS), HAS AROUSED NO DISCERNIBLE INTEREST FOR SOME TIME NOW. URUGUAY WOULD BE THE SITE BUT NO DATES HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE PREFER TO MOVE AHEAD ON REFORM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND RESTRUCTURING, PUTTING COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT ASIDE UNTIL THE OTHER MEMBERS RENEW THEIR INTEREST. VANCE

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